GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:105
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2001
CELLULAR TELEPHONES
P.D. ELANGOVAN

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to introduce more cellular telephones in rural and semi-urban areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STA QUESTION NO. 105 FOR 30th JULY, 2001 REGARDING CELLULAR TELEPHONES.

The Government have granted licences for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS), for Metro City Service Areas and Telecom Circle Service Areas, to private operators as well as to the public sector operators, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), as per details in the AnnexureFurther process has been started for inducting one more private operator of CMTSin most of the Service Areas, for which bids have been received. After the introduction of additional operator, there will be three private operators and one Government Operator in most of the Service Areas in the country.

The terms and conditions of the Licences, inter-alia, provide that atleast 10% of the District Headquarters will be covered in the first year and 50% of the District Headquarters will be covered within three years of effective date of License.The licensees have also been permitted to cover any other town in a District in lieu of the District Headquarters.The choice of District Headquarters/ towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/towns lies with the Licensee companies depending on their business decision. There is no requirement of mandatory coverage of rural areas as per the licences granted. With multiple operators in each Service Area, it is expected that all the Licensees will cover more and more areas including semi-urban and rural areas.

BSNL has been given CMTS licence covering the entire country except for Delhi & Mumbai Metro City Service areasIt has proposed to cover all the District Headquarters, important Pilgrimage Centres, Major Highways and Railways Routes throughout the country wherever permitted. Rural and semi-urban areas falling within the signal coverage shall also get the benefit of Cellular Mobile Services.

ANNEXURE

List of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service Providers

Sl. No.	Service Area (Metro City/Telecom Circle)	Name of Operator
1	Delhi	Bharti Cellular Ltd.
		Sterling Cellular Ltd.
		Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited
2.	Mumbai	BPL Mobile Communication Ltd.
		Hutchison Max Telecom Ltd.
		Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited
3.	Kolkata	Spice Cell Ltd.
		Usha Maartin Telekom Ltd.
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.

4. Chennai RPG Cellular Services Ltd.
Skycell Communications (P) Ltd.
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

5. Andhra Pradesh Tata Cellular Ltd.
Bharti Mobile Ltd.
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
6. Assam Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

7 Bihar Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd. +
Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

8. Gujarat Fascel Ltd.
Birla At&T Communications Ltd.
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

9. Haryana Escotel Mobile Communication (P)Ltd.
Aircel Digilink India Ltd.
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
10 Himachal Pradesh Bharti Telenet Ltd.
Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.
11 Karnataka Bharti Mobile Ltd.
Spice Communications Ltd.
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.
12. Kerala Escotel Mobile Communications (P) Ltd.
BPL Cellular Ltd.
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.
13. Maharashtra BPL Cellular Ltd.
Birla AT&T Communications Ltd.
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.
14. Madhya Pradesh RPG Cellcom Ltd.
Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
15. N.E. Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.
Hexacom India Ltd.
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
16. Orissa Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd. +
Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
17. Punjab Spice Communications Ltd.
Bharti Mobile Ltd. +
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
18. Rajasthan Aircel Digilink India Ltd.
Hexacom India Ltd.
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
19. Tamilnadu BPL Cellular Ltd.
Aircel Ltd.
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
20. UP(W) Escotel Mobile Communications Ltd.
Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd. +
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
21. UP(E) Aircel Digilink India Ltd.
Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd.
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
22. West Bengal Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

Legend:

+ These licences stand terminated for default in payment of licence fee dues.

Note: Expansion or fresh start of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service is not permitted at present by Private Operators as well as Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in J&K, North East and Assam Telecom Circles on security considerations.